Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A removable interchangeable focus adjustment knob, said removable focus adjustment knob is magnetically fastenable to a planar outer surface of a focus adjustment means in a manner that prevents separation of said removable focus adjustment knob from said focus adjustment means in an axial direction during rotational movement of said knob, and enables rotational slippage between said removable focus adjustment knob and said focus adjustment means when upper and lower limits of focusing are reached.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The adjustment knob of Claim 1 wherein said focus adjustment means comprises a rotatable shaft.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The adjustment knob of Claim 1 adapted for complementary magnetically attractive engagement with said focus adjustment means.

Claim 4 (cancelled)

Claim 5 (previously presented): A microscope comprising:

a focus adjustment means and a removable interchangeable focus adjustment knob, said removable focus adjustment knob is magnetically and removably fastenable to a planar outer surface of said focus adjustment means in a manner that prevents axial separation of said removable focus adjustment knob from said focus adjustment means during rotational movement of said knob, and enables rotational slippage between said removable focus adjustment knob and said focus adjustment means when upper and lower limits of focusing are reached.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The microscope of Claim 5 wherein said focus adjustment means comprises a rotatable shaft attached opposite the attachment of said removable focus adjustment knob to said planar outer surface.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The microscope of Claim 5 wherein said focus adjustment knob is adapted for complementary magnetically attractive engagement with said focus adjustment means.

Claim 8 (cancelled)

Claim 9 (previously presented): The microscope of Claim 5 comprising a second focus adjustment means.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The microscope of Claim 9 wherein said second focus adjustment means comprises a second focusing means.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The microscope of Claim 9 wherein said removable interchangeable focus adjustment knob is magnetically fastenable to a planar outer surface of said second focus adjustment means.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A microscope comprising:

a focus adjustment means comprising a first focus adjustment knob and a removable focus adjustment knob;

a focus drive means having a planar outer surface, wherein said removable focus adjustment knob is removably attachable to said planar outer surface, said first focus adjustment knob and said removable focus adjustment knob are coaxial and independently rotatable with respect to one another at the same time, and said removable focus adjustment knob is removably attachable to the left or the right side of said microscope.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The microscope of Claim 12 wherein said focus drive means includes a rotatable shaft.

Claim 14 (cancelled)

Claim 15 (previously presented): The microscope of Claim 13 wherein said removable focus adjustment knob is removably attachable to said focus drive means by a complementary fastening means that prevents separation of said removable focus adjustment knob in an axial direction from said focus drive means, and enables rotational slippage between said removable focus adjustment knob and said focus drive means when upper and lower focusing limits are reached.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The microscope of Claim 15 wherein said complementary fastening means is magnetic.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The microscope of Claim 15 wherein said complementary fastening means comprises pin means extending axially of said removable focus adjustment knob and pin receiving means complementarily extending axially of said focus drive means.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The microscope of Claim 17 wherein one of said pin means and said pin receiving means is formed of magnetic material and the other of said pin means and said pin receiving means is formed of magnetically attractable material.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The microscope of Claim 12 wherein said focus drive means is operatively arranged for causing vertical displacement of a microscope stage.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The microscope of Claim 19 comprising at least two focus adjustment means, each having a removable focus adjustment knob, disposed on opposite sides of said microscope.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The microscope of Claim 20 wherein one of said removable focus adjustment knobs has an axial length greater than another.

Claim 22 (currently amended): A microscope comprising:

a first focusing means comprising a first removable focus adjustment knob and a first focus drive means, wherein said first focus drive means has a first planar outer surface, ~~that~~ said first removable focus adjustment knob [[is]] removably attachable to said first planar outer surface;

a second focusing means comprising a second removable focus adjustment knob and a second focus drive means, wherein said second focus drive means has a second planar outer surface, ~~that~~ said second removable focus adjustment knob [[is]] removably attachable to said second planar outer surface, wherein each of said first and second removable focus adjustment knobs are releasably and alternatively fastenable to either of said first and second focus drive means and one of said first and second focus adjustment knobs has an axial length greater than that of the other.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The microscope of Claim 22 wherein each of said first and second removable focus adjustment knobs is releasably fastenable to each of said first and second focus drive means by magnetic attraction therebetween.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The microscope of Claim 22 wherein each of said first second removable focus adjustment knobs is releasably fastenable to each of said first and second focus drive means by pin means and pin receiving means.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The microscope of Claim 24, wherein said first and second removable focus adjustment means are releasably fastenable to each of said first and second focus drive means by pin means and pin receiving means extending axially of each of said first and second focus adjustment means and each of said first and second focus drive means; one of said pin means and said pin receiving means being formed of magnetic material and the other thereof formed of magnetic attractable material.

Claim 26 (original): The microscope of Claim 22 wherein said first and second focus drive means are disposed on opposite sides of said microscope.

Claim 27 (currently amended): In combination with an interchangeable stage drive assembly, a microscope comprising:

a first focusing means comprising a first coarse adjustment knob and a first removable fine focus adjustment knob;

a second focusing means comprising second coarse adjustment knob and a second removable fine focus adjustment knob; and,

at least first and second focus drive means~~, wherein said first and second focus drive means have a~~ comprising first and second planar outer ~~surface~~ surfaces, respectively, ~~that~~ said first and second removable fine focus adjustment ~~knob~~ knobs are removably attachable to said first and second planar outer surfaces, respectively, and said first and second removable fine focus knobs are releasably and alternatively fastenable to each of said at least first and second focus drive means.

Claim 28 (original): The microscope of Claim 27 wherein said at least first and second focus drive means are disposed on opposite sides of said microscope and one of said first and second removable fine focus adjustment knobs has an axial length greater than that of the other.

Claim 29 (original): The microscope of Claim 28 wherein said each of said removable fine focus adjustment knobs are releasably and alternatively fastenable to each of said at least first and second focus drive means by magnetic attraction therebetween.

Claim 30 (original): The microscope of Claim 29 wherein each of said first and second fine focus adjustment means are releasably and alternatively fastenable to each of said at least first and second focus drive means by pin means and pin receiving means.

Claim 31 (original): The microscope of Claim 30, wherein said each of said first and second removable fine focus knobs are releasably fastenable to said at least first and second focus drive means by pin means and pin receiving means extending axially of each of said first and second focus drive means, and one of said pin means and said pin receiving means is formed of magnetic material and the other formed of magnetic attractable material.

Claim 32 (original): The microscope of Claim 28 wherein one of said removable fine focus adjustment knobs has an axial length less than the other and is disposed on a same side of said microscope as a microscope stage drive mechanism, said removable fine focus adjustment knob having an axial length less than the other being operatively arranged for focusing an object plane.

Claim 33 (currently amended): The microscope of Claim 27 wherein said focus drive means has a first rotatable shaft attached to said first and second planar outer ~~surface~~ surfaces opposite said first and second removable fine focus adjustment knobs, respectively, and a second rotatable shaft associated with said first and second coarse adjustment knobs.

Claim 34 (currently amended): The microscope of Claim 22 wherein said first focus drive means has a first rotatable shaft attached ~~opposite~~ to said first planar outer surface on the opposite side that said first removable focus adjustment knob is removably attached, said second focus drive means has a second rotatable shaft attached to said second planar outer surface on the opposite side that said second removable focus adjustment knob is removably attached, a third rotatable shaft is associated with said first coarse adjustment knob, and a fourth rotatable shaft is associated with said second coarse adjustment knob.

Claim 35 (new): The microscope of Claim 22 wherein said first and second removable focus adjustment knobs are operatively arranged to slidably rotate relative to said first and second planar outer surfaces.

Claim 36 (new): The microscope of Claim 27 wherein said first and second removable fine focus adjustment knobs are operatively arranged to slidably rotate relative to said first and second planar outer surfaces.